

My name is John Rinaldi and I am writing with regard to proposed bill SB 227 regarding ownership of any ivory regardless of its age, value or historic significance. Everyone agrees that the poaching of Elephants and Rhino is a travesty that needs to be addressed but until the demand for ivory is diminished in Asian countries little else will have an affect on the problem.

Rendering magnificent antiquities worthless and criminalizing the owners who purchased them **legally** would be totally unfair especially considering that America is supposed to be a free and fair country.

For many years there have been plenty of laws on the books that make commerce in any new ivory completely unlawful and subject to stiff penalties. Continued enforcement of those laws should be the focus and not the criminalization of honest enthusiasts of art and antiquities.

The destruction of important 19th & 20th items such as pianos, chess sets, inlaid furniture, scientific and medical instruments, walking sticks, historic presentation swords and revolvers, silver tea pots, painted portraits, etc., etc would be an absolute travesty in so many ways that include criminalization of honest people as well as robbing them of monetary value that they may have planned on tapping into during their retirement years.

I urge all the decision makers to strongly consider the ramifications that would result from passage of such a drastic bill.

Sincerely John F. Rinaldi, Kennebunkport, ME